



# San Francisco Water Power Sewer

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 2013

TO: The Honorable Art Torres  
President, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

THROUGH: Harlan L. Kelly, Jr. *[Signature]*  
General Manager

FROM: Tommy T. Moala *[Signature]*  
Assistant General Manager, Wastewater Enterprise

SUBJECT: Declaration of Emergency: Repair Digester Roofs System and Biosolids Cake Bins at Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant

On March 5, 2013, the SFPUC Wastewater Enterprise (WWE) requested an emergency be declared to repair the unsound roofs on five digesters and two biosolids storage cake bins at the Southeast Treatment Plant (SEP). Due to the extremely deteriorated condition of the existing aged biosolids treatment and handling facilities at SEP, many necessary processes have failed and additional systems are on the verge of catastrophic failure due to severe corrosion. This situation has posed a severe risk to permit compliance, health and safety of plant personnel, and has caused significant impacts to the neighboring residential community.

At this time, Digesters 2, 3, and 8 are out of service due to failed roof systems and excessive grit in Digester 8. The recent failures have left the WWE essentially with only five active digesters and one storage digester. A minimum of six active digesters and two storage digesters are needed to ensure the appropriate level of treatment can be provided. A total of five digesters (Numbers 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10) roof systems have experienced severe corrosion, degrading their support systems and roof structures, and are on the verge of roof collapse. In addition, two biosolids cake storage bins have corroded so severely that odorous emissions of gases are escaping and causing an odor nuisance in the neighboring community. WWE has received five odor complaints that have been confirmed by Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). In addition, two permit violations notices were issued by BAAQMD in recent months for the Southeast Plant. Further confirmed odor complaints and notice of violation will place a severe burden administratively and/or fiduciary on WWE by BAAQMD along with an adverse public relations.

It is in the best interest of the City to declare an emergency for this work to repair the digester facility roofs in order to mitigate the potential risks to the health and safety of facility personnel, ensure permit compliance and protect the surrounding Southeast Community.

This request for emergency declaration is for resources and materials to perform the work beyond the capabilities of the City forces as soon as possible for an estimated cost not-to-exceed \$9,000,000.

I am therefore declaring the existence of an emergency. I trust that this meets with your concurrence and approval.

CONCUR AND APPROVE:

*[Signature of Art Torres]*

Art Torres — President  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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